

Coin Board News

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I did not intend to go three months between newsletters, but I delayed this one to send out with the next price list. That was itself delayed when a big board deal scheduled for the FUN show fell through. The seller was there—he just didn't bring the boards! It took awhile to put together a respectable list without that infusion of new items.

Opportunities to buy coin boards have slowed considerably in recent months. I'm always an eager buyer, but there's very little new stuff coming my way. The most recent assortment I received had to be returned in its entirety. It seems the seller failed to notice that the left and right margins of each board had been cut off in an apparent effort to fit them into small frames. Sadly, these were otherwise very clean boards, though nothing rare was included.

I've been seeing fewer coin boards on eBay than at any time I can recall. Those that have appeared recently most often are my own current listings or boards which I'd sold previously. These sometimes reappear with coins freshly mounted by another seller. While there's certainly nothing wrong with this, I can't help worrying that the boards will one day receive further damage to their backings when the coins are removed. Since these are mostly boards that were in average condition when sold by me, the downside risk to them is not great, but it does add another curious dimension to the coin board market.

One comical episode on eBay occurred when a lot consisting of three so-so boards was bid up to many multiples of the price for which I'd sell them. It seems that at least one and possibly two bidders were under the impression that they included coins, though this was clearly not the case from the photos.

In the last newsletter I included a list of Errata & Addenda for my book. Well, I now have to make a correction to one of the corrections. Disregard the previous changes to page 171. Instead, simply apply the new revisions to the book as published. These are shown in bold print on the updated list included with this newsletter. I discovered this error in the course of inventorying my own collection of boards. This monumental task had been delayed for so long because of the work in preparing and publishing my book and then putting out this series of newsletters and price lists. I finally took a week off from work to put my own house in order, labeling and grading all of my boards.

Most of you should already have the 2009 Market Report and Updated Value Guide that I sent with the last newsletter. For those who don't, it is available in pdf format by email or in hardcopy by sending me a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

In other news, *The Numismatist* is running a feature article I wrote on the Portland, Oregon firm of Earl & Koehler and its elusive coin boards. This appears in the March issue, timed to coincide with the American Numismatic Association's Money Show in Portland. For those of you who have my book there's nothing new in the article, but it should generate greater awareness of the rare E & K boards among general hobbyists. Perhaps, it may even pry a few of this company's boards from their hiding places among Oregon-area collectors. I'd certainly be delighted to have one or more duplicates to offer.

While I won't be attending that show, I will be at the Santa Clara Expo in April. If you're in that area, please stop by the NGC table and say hello. My future travel plans after that are uncertain. As the company no longer provides informal opinions of grade and authenticity, I'm not required to be at the booth. In the meantime, please enjoy this newsletter, and peruse the new price list for any goodies.

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